

Cairns and District Chinese Association Looks to a Bright Future!

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates the Cairns and District Chinese Association (CADCAI), one of six community collecting institutions in Far North Queensland who have completed a year long groundbreaking program for Queensland's museum sector. The Standards Program is designed to help participating museums plan for a sustainable future by recognising their achievements, raising their profile and identifying strategic priorities for improvement and development.

On Wednesday 21 November Leslie Sparkes, Manager, Community and Cultural Development, Cairns City Council welcomed participants to a formal event celebrating their completion of the program. The Cairns and District Chinese Association received a certificate of recognition from Paul Brinkman, Director, Cairns Regional Gallery in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Tamara Lavrencic and Denise Neville, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated the Cairns and District Chinese Association saying 'The Heritage Group of CADCAI are passionately involved with the collection and promoting the ongoing contribution of the Chinese community to the residents of and visitors to Cairns and the local district.'

They praised the Association saying the focus of CADCAI as a whole has changed over the years from being a social club to an organisation involved in cultural preservation of a significant community collection.

CADCAI is custodian of the Lit Sung Goong temple collection which comprises a range of artefacts, produced in China and brought to Cairns in the late 19th century. The temple operated from 1877 to 1964 and the collection is one of the last tangible links to the early Cairns Chinese settlers. Several items from the collection are accessible to the public at the Cairns Museum.

Cairns and District Chinese Association is now proposing a new heritage centre to house their collections of objects from the Lit Sung Goong Temple and old Cairns Chinatown. The Association will also continue to develop the collection through new acquisitions, loans and preservation. A new business plan outlines requirements for an Executive Officer to manage and raise the profile of the collection. Members of the Association are now also committed to providing more information on the collection for researchers and interested viewers.

Lai Chu Chan, President of the Association explained the benefits of participating in the Standards program: 'We have gained further knowledge and understanding of what is best museum practice and we are preparing written policies for all aspects of museum and collections management. We also appreciate the reviewer's recognition for the work we have already done during the past 6 years. It is important to us that our efforts are recognised and encouraged. Thank you Museum and Gallery Services Queensland!'

Next year M&GSQ will offer the Museum Standards Program to another region in Queensland, to be announced in early 2008.

Full program information is available at

http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/index.asp?view_mode=subsection&ss_id=18



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ABN 32 109 874 811

Media profiles and print quality images from the Presentation Ceremony are attached.

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